canal to the west of the temple through which the waste water from the temple premises formerly found its way into the backwater close by.

The Member proposed the restoration of the four *oluqu* canals that surrounded the temple premises and the adjoining portions on all the four sides and the opening of three new channels in the western part of the town to facilitate drainage. These suggestions were not new. When they were made by the Council once before, the Chief Engineer declined to make an investigation for fear of a heavy outlay. The cost would not be heavy, and even if it was high, Government should take up the works. He assured Government that the Municipality was prepared to contribute its mite and requested orders to the P. W. D. to make an investigation into the matter with a view to formulate definite proposals.

Dewan's reply.— As regards the drainage of the town, Government will do the needful as I have already promised another Member.

In regard to the improvement of the channels mentioned by you, I shall have to study the connected papers before saying what can be done.

106. Some needs of the Parur Municipality.

Mr. K. Velayudhan Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Parur) said that the Parur Municipality existed only in name. There was only a single road in the town, viz., the one leading to Alwaye, which ran a furlong from the court-house and then ended. There was no other road in the town; there were also no drainage arrangements. The Municipality could not boast of an office building, a night-soil depôt or even a public latrine. The balance of municipal funds was only Rs. 6,000. There was no private scavenging system in the town either. This year's budget resulted in a deficit of nearly Rs. 2,000. With this deficit in the succeeding years it would not be possible to attend to the above works, without substantial help from Government. Gravelled roads would quite meet their purposes. In regard to drainage, the first work to be attended to was the improvement of the canal known as Kala *thodu*. Mr. Kukillaya, when he was the President of the Municipality, wished to widen and deepen it and accordingly an estimate was prepared. The Chief Engineer said that a sum of Rs. 6,000 was necessary for restoring the canal. Government said that it was a big scheme and asked the Municipality to enquire whether the owners of the adjoining lands would be prepared to part with the lands free. Many persons were willing to surrender their lands. As a matter of fact, the canal needed nothing more than deepening and this could be done with one-third of the cost originally estimated. There were two other canals also to be improved, one on the eastern side by name Pattini *thodu* and another. These were the three canals for improvement and the total cost to be incurred might not exceed Rs. 3,000. In regard to the Government grant, the Alwaye Municipality which had a balance of Rs. 26,000 was being given a grant of Rs. 300, whereas the grant to the Parur Municipality, the resources of which were considerably slender, was also put at the same figure, viz., Rs. 300. If the works referred to above were carried out at the cost of Government, the Municipality would have no objection to repay the amount in about 10 years.

The Member next spoke about the difficulty arising from the maintenance of a separate currency for Travancore, while the number of Post and Telegraph offices, railway stations, branches of foreign banks, etc., within the country was increasing. The amount, time and trouble involved in the calculation for the conversion of one form of currency into the other was very great in a border taluk like Parur and such conversions invariably resulted in some loss to private parties. The question of prestige ought not to stand in the way of the abolition of the Travancore currency, now that the States of Mysore and Cochin had relinquished that privilege. The Member then made the following suggestions:—

(1) The abolition of the Sirkar rupee which was only an imaginary coin.

(2) The silver *chackram* being made to represent a definite part of the rupee, and the British rupee being treated as equivalent to 28 *chackrams*.

(3) The silver *fanam* being made current coin throughout the State.

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Dewan's reply.—You say you want money for the repair of roads and the two drainage channels, Kala *thodu* and Pattini *thodu*. Your Council has a balance of a little over Rs. 6,000, but you say that you are utilising that amount for the acquisition of lands for your office and for a night-soil depôt. The latter is very necessary, but I would suggest the postponement of the construction of a building for your office. You may continue to hold your office for some time more in a rented building and utilise part of your balance on the works referred to by you.

Member.—A sum of Rs. 6,000 is necessary for acquiring the sites alone.

Dewan.—All that I can say is that you should submit definite proposals and say that so much money is needed. A loan from Government to the extent of the additional funds required would be a more acceptable proposition.

In regard to currency, that is a question of sovereign privilege, and a consideration of which is beset with great difficulties. Your representations will be borne in mind.

(2) Medical Relief.

107. Medical aid in Travancore with special reference to the opening of a dispensary at Kadapra.

Mr. Narayanan Ramavarman Tampan (Member, Tiruvalla Taluk) first thanked the Dewan for his visit to Kadapra, the first made by a Dewan, and represented that the people of the locality were being subjected to considerable hardship owing to want of means of communication. They had been complaining of the condition of the Mavelikara-Tiruvalla road for several years in the past and had not had their prayers fulfilled yet. He begged that that road might be put in proper order with the necessary bridges. It would be better to transfer the control of the whole road to one P. W. Division instead of to two Divisions, namely, Quilon and Kottayam, as was the case at present.

The Member complained of the shortage of expenditure in medicines and drugs and said that no medicines were available in the medical institutions of the State and that consequently the poor people suffered. The suggestion he had to make for more effective medical aid being given was the creation of Medical Boards in each taluk. He then suggested the starting of a medical magazine in which details of departmental information might be given together with the latest information on the recent developments of medical science. Medical aid in maternity cases was a subject in which the immediate attention of Government ought to be given, especially in rural and interior parts, the Medical Officers in charge of those institutions being particularly instructed to attend promptly to such cases. Lady Medical Officers ought to be employed in larger numbers, and arrangements should be made for the manufacture of drugs locally. In regard to the want of a dispensary for Kadapra, the Member described the hardship they were put to for want of a medical institution there. It was a subject brought to the notice of Government more than once and it yet remained unredressed. They were prepared to give the necessary building. Though the Tiruvalla Hospital was only 5 miles distant, they had to travel about 15 miles to reach it and the only other institution near them was the one at Mavelikara, the distance to which was even greater. The Member finally put in a strong plea for more Ayurvedic institutions and for the supply of good drugs to them from the Pharmacy in Trivandrum. It was also desirable to have more herb gardens.

Dewan's reply.—With regard to the Alanturutti bridge, I have already said that the sanctioned amount will be utilised this year and the work completed as soon as practicable.

As regards the supply of medicines to hospitals, I am informed that the stock of medicines in the Department is quite sufficient and that large quantities of the same are being distributed. If poor people are not given medicines, it is not the

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